

Appl. No. 10/500,760
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 12 July 2005

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Amendments to the Drawing Figures:

The attached drawing sheet includes proposed additional FIG. 9 and replaces the original sheet 5/5 including FIG. 8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 8-17 are newly added.

The applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

Claims are amended for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label number(s), and/or to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

The applicants thank the Examiner for providing information about recommended section headings. However, the applicants respectfully decline to add the headings. Section headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application under 35 USC 111(a), but are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use. (See Miscellaneous Changes in Patent Practice, Response to comments 17 and 18 (Official Gazette, August 13, 1996) [Docket No: 950620162-6014-02] RIN 0651-AA75 ("Section 1.77 is permissive rather than mandatory. ... [T]he Office will not require any application to comply with the format set forth in 1.77").

The Office action objects to the specification for failing to contain an Abstract. The applicants are perplexed by this objection, because this application is a PCT application that was forwarded to the USPTO from the International Bureau, and because an Abstract clearly appears in the publication of this application by the USPTO as US 2005/0029956.

The Office action objects to the drawings. FIG. 9 is attached hereto, and illustrates all of the claimed elements. The specification is correspondingly amended. No new matter is added.

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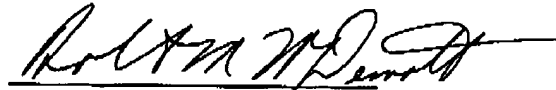
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In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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